

Union Preparatory School



14 MARCH



Dear Parents

We have come to the end of a busy and productive first term. We had lots of fun with our athletics and inter-schools gala - not to mention the tennis and cricket matches in which our pupils played so well. Moms and dads, we would like to thank you again for assisting at these events. We would not be able to manage without you. Thanks also to the teachers and coaches who braved the blazing sun while teaching our little ones the skills they need for these sports.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

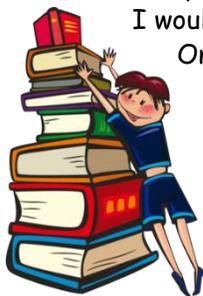
On the academic front our pupils have maintained a high level of performance and we are satisfied with their overall progress.

Our compliments to the teachers who managed to keep up with the requirements for the first term amid the interruptions to classroom time.

Please study your child's report and praise where praise is due and encourage where improvement is possible. If the teacher expressed concern, please make an appointment to see her. It is wise to intervene as early as possible.

I would like to caution parents that usually the first term marks are a little higher than the other terms.

One can expect a mild drop for term 2. It is normal, do not be alarmed.



CULTURAL

The loveliest melodies have been drifting out of the Music Room. Our musicians are busy preparing for The Music Hour later next term. We are also looking forward to the General Knowledge Quiz during June.

Our school library is a pleasure to behold. The children love visiting it and silent reading has a whole new glamour about it since they can read in Wonderland. Mrs Du Preez has sorted and arranged the books and established her system. Please teach your child to handle books with respect. We are very thankful to have Mrs Du Preez.

SPORT

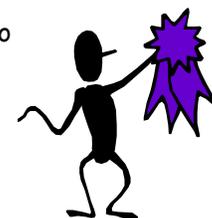
One of the rewards at Preparatory School level is, to my mind, seeing how children who started out 'unable' are presently 'enabled' to do things which are new to them, for instance to run straight inside their lanes and to flap their way across the width of the pool. These are great achievements for them.



Our cricketers and tennis players fared very well in their matches, often leaving the fields and courts victoriously. Congratulations to all the pupils who made Union proud and a sincere thank you to the coaches and Mr Steenkamp, our Sports co-ordinator.

Three of our tennis players, Grace Kemp, Owen Paxton and Emma Watson were selected for the EPCD team. We are very proud of them.

The swimming season was hampered by a severe problem with our pool, but still we managed to do very well during the Inter-schools gala against Volkskool. Grace Kemp, Mia Botha and Callum Jacobs went through to the Karoo team and will be participating in the Inter-District gala.



Mia Botha narrowly missed 1st place (by one second) in the biathlon recently held in PE.

What a race! Congratulations, well done!

Union performed really well in Athletics, beating Volkskool convincingly at our Inter-Schools meet.



SGB

We wish to thank the members of our governing body for the unselfish way in which they have made themselves available to the school this term. It is sincerely appreciated.

The parent members are: Mr Mark Hudson, Mr Stephen Bezuidenhout, Pastor Dolan Cochran, Mrs Jacqui Marais, Mrs Brenda Murray and Mrs Ulrike Collett. Teacher members are Mrs Bronwynne Kingwill, Mr Marchant van Rooyen and myself, and the non-teacher member is Mr Floris Steenkamp.



TEACHERS, ADMIN STAFF, AFTERCARE, GROUND STAFF AND MATRONS

A special word of thanks to all members of staff for their dedication and commitment to the children in their care. The fruit of their labour can be detected in the performance and contentment of our pupils.

STAFF MATTERS

Miss Shellyn Butterworth has accepted a Departmental post at a school in Nieu Bethesda. Miss Amore Mey is perfectly qualified to take her place as Learning Support Teacher. Mrs Robyn Bellingan has filled the vacant Grade 4 post. And Mrs Moyra Marais is our Grade 1 Teachers Aide. We are very happy to have them on our staff.

AFTERCARE



Aunty Marjorie Du Preez is also our Aftercare Granny. The almost 20 children in her care love and respect her. They are calm and peaceful, do their homework and play nicely together.

We would like to bring to your attention that it is not possible to give in-depth, one-on-one attention to all the children in the time available for homework. The ultimate duty rests with the parents to ensure that homework is done, checked and signed off. Also kindly help the children to pack for the next school day, checking that they have ALL their books, their lunch box and sport gear.

Our Aftercare centre needs toys and equipment to keep the children occupied and amused. If you have any unused board games, puzzles, balls, bats, crayons, colouring-in books, arts and crafts equipment etc, please send it our way. Clean out the attic!



PARENT SUPPORT

Thank you dear parents, for the way you never fail to support your children and our school. A special word of thanks to Mr Richard Collett and Mr Kurt Vorster for their help with the cricket.

With the Rugby and Hockey season in mind, just a friendly reminder that children are not allowed **upstairs** at The Union. All children who support teams must wear school uniform, whites or full track suit.

We trust that you and our pupils will enjoy the holidays.

Have a lovely holiday. God bless.

Kind regards

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